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UNIVS CAN CREATE 25% EXTRA SEATS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

Universities and higher education institutions can create 25% extra seats for foreigners, UGC chairman Jagadesh Kumar said

NO ENTRANCE TESTS FOR THESE SEATS

There will be no entrance tests for these admissions, Kumar told PTI. The aim is "internationalisation of UG and PG programmes in India" and to make the country a preferred destination for international students. The supernumerary seats will be created over and above the total sanctioned strength and can be allotted only to international students

EXCHANGE STUDENTS DON'T COUNT

- The supernumerary seats cannot be allotted to international students who are in India under exchange programmes
- International students may be admitted based on qualifications set by the UGC or other competent bodies. To be considered an international student, one must have a foreign passport

23,439

FOREIGN STUDENTS ARRIVED IN INDIA IN 2021, ACCORDING TO MEA

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

LOOK OUT CIRCULAR AGAINST 8 ACCUSED IN LIQUOR SCAM

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH @ New Delhi

THE CBI on Sunday issued Look Out Circulars (LOC) against eight private individuals named in its FIR on the Delhi liquor policy scam, including Vinay Nair and Dinesh Arora, who are currently abroad. The agency is likely to issue LOCs against the remaining seven accused later, including Deputy CM Manish Sisodia. Well-placed sources said CBI sleuths have parked themselves around the official residence of Sisodia, who is scheduled to fly to Gujarat on Monday.

Nair, former CEO of Only Much Louder, an event management company that managed several comedy shows like All India Bakchod, has conveyed to the CBI that he is in the US for some personal work and would join the probe once he is back. He is also an AAP member. Airports have been put on alert about his and Arora's arrival.

Arora and Arjun Pandey, who was formerly associated with a news channel, are alleged close associates of Sisodia, who were allegedly involved in diverting kickbacks from liquor licensees for the accused bureaucrats. It is alleged that Radha Industries managed by Dinesh Arora received ₹1 crore from Sameer Mahendru of Indo-Spirits.

Besides, Arun Ramchandra Pillai, said to be part of the liquor mafia, allegedly used to collect slush money from Mahendru for onward transmission to the accused officials through Nair. Pandey once collected about ₹2-4 crore from Sameer on behalf of Nair.

The CBI has also summoned Amit Arora, the alleged linkman in the nexus, for its second round of questioning on Wednesday. On Saturday, he was questioned for two-and-a-half hours but he "remained largely quiet", sources said. Arora is a director in 15 companies based in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. He is a co-founder of a famous Mexican restaurant, Dos Burros, located at DLF Cyber City in Gurgaon. It was Amit Arora and Ankur Mahajan who opened Dos Burros in 2015.

Sources said Amit Arora, is director in Omlogic Digital Media Pvt Ltd, Aralias Retail Pvt Ltd, VD Restaurants Pvt Ltd, Samannat Retail Pvt Ltd, Buddy (T-1d) Retail Pvt Ltd, Buddy Retail Pvt Ltd, Buddy Hospitality Pvt Ltd, Magnolias Retail Pvt Ltd, Eastman Builders Pvt Ltd, Aralias Hospitality Pvt Ltd, Buddy's People Resources Pvt Ltd, KSJM Spirits, Blue Smoke Beverages and SAS Alcobev. Arora's partner Ankur Mahajan is based in Jammu. He is director in 10 companies — across Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. Most of Mahajan companies are related to automobiles. However, he is associated with Arora in liquor and hospitality business. Arora did not respond to this newspaper's queries about his links with netas, babus and liquor barons and the money invested in various firms.

ENOUGH PRIMA FACIE PROOF

Officials probing the case say there is enough prima facie evidence of violation of regulations. They include financial wrongdoings and non-disclosure of material information under the Companies Act besides spreading misinformation under the IT and other Acts

Financial dealings in shares, cryptocurrencies and online gaming platforms are under the CBI lens

The foreign visits and international remittances for at least 50 individuals, including comic artists, businessmen, social media influencers and those linked to the entertainment industry, are also being probed

Those under the scanner include individuals and companies from Hyderabad, which managed to get licence for sale of liquor in Delhi

Companies associated with Nair include Babblefish and Mothers wear. Other firms under lens for being associated with Nair are Weirdass Comedy, Motormouth Writers and Rebellion Management

Ministry of Corporate Affairs is looking into a maze of corporate entities associated with those named by the CBI

Anand Sharma's turn to quit his HP Cong post

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IN a blow to the Congress party in poll-bound Himachal Pradesh, senior leader Anand Sharma resigned as the chairman of the Himachal Congress Steering Committee on Sunday.

In a letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Sharma said his self-respect has been hurt as the party has not consulted him or invited him to any of the meetings of the core group of the state on election strategy and preparations.

"On June 20, meetings of senior leaders including PCC President, LP leader and Chairman Campaign Committee were held for election preparations. On August 7 and 8, meetings of the core group, senior leaders and HPCC general house were convened. The Chairman of the Steering Committee was neither informed nor invited for any of the meetings held, not even for the general house," he wrote, adding that his self-respect is non-negotiable.

After Sonia Gandhi had in April appointed new HPCC president, CLP leader, chairman of campaign committee and the AICC announced eight other committees, including a steering committee with him as the chairman, Sharma had sought clarity from AICC general secretary in charge of organisation K C Venugopal on the multiplicity of committees and overlapping of functions.

"I had requested the AICC general secretary in charge of organisation and AICC incharge to clarify the mandate of the steering committee," he wrote in the letter.

His resignation comes days after another Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad quit as the Jammu and Kashmir Congress Campaign Committee Chairman.

Both Sharma and Azad are prominent members of the G-23 group which has been demanding transparent organisational elections in the party.

Sharma told the party president that he will continue to campaign for the party candidates in the state.

EXPRESS READ

BJP may now hold 'Janotsava' on Sept 8

Bengaluru: The BJP, which had dropped plans to organise 'Janotsava' -- marking one year of Basavaraj Bommai's tenure as CM -- in the light of BJYM activist Praveen Nettaru's murder, may hold it on September 8 | P4

En route to stir, Tikait detained by Delhi police

New Delhi: Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait was on Sunday detained by Delhi police, while he was attempting to enter the national capital to take part in an unemployment protest.

Karnataka aims to produce more ethanol, reduce petrol, diesel need

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

IF all goes well, Karnataka will be the first state in the country to reduce its dependence on petrol and diesel with the state government aiming to increase production of ethanol, which is allowed to be blended at 20 per cent with motor fuels. This will also likely bring down prices of petrol and diesel.

Karnataka, which ranks third among sugarcane-growing states in the country, is coming up with a new ethanol policy that will provide for bigger profits for sugarcane growers.

Ethanol can also be used to make disinfectants, sanitisers, medical spirit and bio-compressed natural gas.

Udyog Mitra Managing Director Doddabasavaraju, who is in charge of facilitating these industries, said there is an increased demand for ethanol after the Union government stressed on blending 20 per cent of ethanol with petrol and diesel. But none of the states have been able to produce even 10 per cent of ethanol required, he added.

"The state government, to promote its production, is providing all facilities, including subsidies. Those interested in setting up ethanol plants can also get loans easily from banks," he said. P5

EXPRESS IMPACT

GOVT TO GIVE RELIEF TO YOUNG WIDOW MOM

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

IN a proactive move and immediate response to the news report, 'Married at 15, this young widow has 2 kids' that appeared in *TNIE* on August 20, the Director, Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD) wrote to the District Child Protection Officer (DCPU), Chamarajanagar district, and Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Kollegal taluk, to "provide necessary services to the 21-year-old (mentioned in the news report) who is a victim of child marriage as per the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, and the Karnataka Amendment, 2016, prepare a comprehensive report and submit the same to the Directorate by August 24", a letter dated August 20 stated. P2

Mizoram CM sorry after daughter assaults doc

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

MIZORAM Chief Minister Zoramthanga on Sunday publicly apologised after his daughter physically assaulted a dermatologist in Aizwal for asking her to get an appointment before consulting him. "We have nothing to justify or say in defence of our daughter's behaviour towards the doctor. We ask forgiveness from the doctor and the public," Zoramthanga said.

He met the doctor personally and apologised. He thanked the Mizoram unit of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) for not taking any "stringent action" against his daughter.

In a video that has gone viral on social media, the CM's daughter Milari Chhangte can be seen approaching the doctor at a clinic and punching him before those present there pulled her away.

In another video, her security guard can be seen leading her away while she continued to shout at the doctor. Sources said she got angry after the doctor told her to get an appointment for consultation.

Her elder brother, Ramthansiama, apologised.

Covid patients were fleeced ₹19 crore

SHILPA P @ Bengaluru

HEALTH Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Sunday said that Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST), under the state health department, has received complaints against 577 private hospitals for charging Rs 18.87 crore extra from Covid patients, besides claiming funds from SAST for giving free treatment to these patients referred by the government, under the Ayushman Bharath Arogya Karnataka (ABARK) scheme.

Stating that these hospitals have been served notices, Dr Sudhakar said, "So far, SAST has recovered Rs 1,58,22,359 from these hospitals and refunded it to 403 patients." A source in SAST said the process of refunding the remaining amount to other patients was underway and it has docked some funds which had to be released to some private hospitals for treating patients under ABARK. P3

Tulasi Gouda gets bridge after decades

SUBHASH CHANORA NS @ Honnali

AFTER an outburst over the pathetic condition that Padma Shri awardee Tulsi Gouda was living in, as she and her family were forced to stay indoors during monsoon with the stream in front of their house overflowing, now a temporary bridge has been constructed.

She has been living on an elevated platform at Honnali along the Hubballi-Ankola highway for decades. During the rainy season, it used to be a nightmare as the overflowing stream would cut them off from the main road. She poured out her woes with the authorities, who visited her house and saw her plight first-hand. "Water comes till our house, even if it rains for half-an-hour," Shekar Gouda, her grandson, said.

Tulasi said, "I don't step out much as I am old and weak. But my family members have to go out and work for a living."

Responding to her pleas, Karwar-Ankola MLA Rupali Naik ensured that the makeshift bridge was constructed. "We have completed the temporary bridge now. But we are planning to construct a permanent foot over bridge. Rs 45 lakh has been sanctioned," Naik said.

"But the neighbouring property owner claims that the land on which the bridge is coming up belongs to him. We will resolve the issue once the monsoon gets over," she informed.

Padma Shri award winner Tulsi Gouda on the temporary bridge near her house | EXPRESS

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